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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,013	06/27/2003	Gregory R. Whittaker	022956-0216	8344

21125 7590 05/25/2006

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EXAMINER

ARAJ, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3733

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

JP

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/609,013	WHITTAKER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Michael J. Araj	3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1, 6, 8-12 and 14-17 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 6, 8 and 17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,517,546 in view of Whittaker et al. in view of Goble et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,350,380).

Whittaker et al. discloses an adjustable drill guide for forming a transverse bore through a bone tunnel of a bone. The claimed invention is disclosed except for the arm portion that includes indicia representing the relative height of the channel with respect to the bone tunnel when the elongated stem portion is inserted inside the bone tunnel.

Goble et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,350,380) teaches a body portion of drill guide apparatus

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that has markings for a measurement scale with the drill sleeve in reference to another axis (e.g. the trocar entry point in reference to the opening of the bone tunnel when the elongated stem portion is inserted inside the bone tunnel.) It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the drill guide of Whittaker et al. with indicia on the arm in view of Goble et al., in order to measure the relative height of the channel with respect to the bone tunnel.

With respect to claim 14, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the bore extend transversely through the bone tunnel at a distance between about 3 to 5 mm from the bone tunnel entrance since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3, 7-13 and 15-19, as understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Goble et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,354,300).

Goble et al. disclose an adjustable drill guide comprised of a guide frame having an arm portion (20) and transverse base portion (22), a rod member (12) connected to the base portion and parallel to the arm portion further having an elongated stem portion, and a guide member (48) including a channel extending therethrough at an angle normal to the longitudinal axis of the arm as well as being moveable and lockable along the length of an arm portion. Goble et al. also shows a body portion of drill guide apparatus that has markings for a measurement scale with the drill sleeve that can represent the relative height of the channel.

Goble et al. also discloses a method for fixing a tissue graft within a bone tunnel that include preparing a bone tunnel for insertion of a tissue graft with the aforementioned adjustable drill guide, forming a bore transverse to the bone tunnel at a location near the bone tunnel exit, placing the tissue graft inside the bone tunnel and securing the tissue graft within the bone tunnel at the location of the bore. This method further includes placement of the elongated stem portion into the bone tunnel, locking the guide member, inserting a drill bit through the bore of the guide member where drilling will commence so that it extends transversely through the bone tunnel and repeating this to administer another hole. The method further includes placing a cross pin through the bore to compress the tissue graft within the bone tunnel near the bone tunnel exit, securing the tissue graft further using a graft attachment device, and anchor the graft attachment device to a portion of the bone outside the bone tunnel.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 14 is rejected, as understood, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goble et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,350,380).

Goble discloses the claimed invention except for the bore extending transversely through the bone tunnel at a distance between about 3 to 5 mm from the bone tunnel entrance. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the bore extend transversely through the bone tunnel at a distance between about 3 to 5 mm from the bone tunnel entrance since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Araj whose telephone number is 571-272-5963. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MJA


EDUARDO C. ROBERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER